United Nations A/54/587/Add.4

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 December 1999
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 99 (d)

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: human resources development

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 99 (see A/54/587, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 24th and 44th meetings, on 27 October and 1 December 1999. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.24 and 44).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.10 and A/C.2/54/L.57

2. At the 24th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Developing human resources for development" (A/C.2/54/L.10), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
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> "*Reaffirming* its resolutions 52/196 of 18 December 1997, 50/105 of 20 December 1995, 48/205 of 21 December 1993, 46/163 of 17 December 1991 and 45/191 of 21 December 1990, as well as the relevant sections of the Agenda for Development,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/54/587 and Add.1-8.

99-37414 (E) 091299

"*Recognizing* that the well-being of people should be the overall goal of development,

"*Stressing* that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development, and that there is a need for continued support from the international community to complement the efforts of developing countries,

"*Stressing also* that there is a need for a supportive and favourable national and international economic environment that will enhance human resources development in developing countries and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

"*Recognizing* that there is a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies that mainstream a gender perspective, taking into account the needs of all people, in particular the needs of women and the girl child,

"*Concerned* at the increasing development gap between developed and developing countries, including the gap in knowledge, information and communication technologies, and also concerned at the increasing disparities of income within and between nations and its adverse impact on the development of human resources, in particular in the developing countries,

"*Recognizing* that globalization, the information revolution and rapid changes make developing countries vulnerable to the risks of marginalization and to recurring financial crisis,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Recognizes* the importance of developing human resources as a means of participating more effectively in the world economic system and of benefiting from globalization;

"3. *Urges* increased investments in all aspects of human development, such as education and training, health and nutrition, to achieve universal coverage and the well-being of all;

"4. *Urges also* the adoption of comprehensive approaches to human resources development which combine, among other factors, economic growth, provision of basic social services, poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods, empowerment of women, involvement of youth, and addressing the needs of vulnerable groups of society;

"5. *Encourages* all countries to accord priority, in particular in national budgets, to human resources development in the context of the adoption of economic and social policies;

"6. *Invites* international organizations, including international financial institutions, to continue to give priority to supporting the objectives of human resources development and to integrating them into their policies, programmes and operations;

"7. *Recognizes* the need to direct concerted efforts at enhancing the technical skills and know-how of people living in rural and agricultural areas with a view to improving their means of livelihood and material well-being, and in this regard encourages the allocation of more resources for this purpose so as to facilitate the access to appropriate technology and know-how from within and from other countries, particularly the developed countries, and urges the developed countries to implement

specific actions designed to enable them to absorb increased agricultural exports from developing countries;

"8. *Encourages* policies, approaches and measures that serve to narrow the increasing gap between developed and developing countries in information and communication technologies in particular and technology in general, including by (a) inviting the private sector, in collaboration with the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, to voluntarily donate to developing countries literary materials, information and communication technology equipment to designated centres in order to facilitate improved access; (b) taking advantage of the rapid turnaround in both the educational institutions and corporations in developed countries of literary material and information and communication technology equipment, through coordinated efforts involving the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and recipients or interested developing countries;

"9. *Calls upon* developing countries, with the support of the international community, to establish information, communication and electronic community centres in order to provide connectivity and access to information and knowledge;

"10. *Calls upon* the developed countries and the United Nations system to increase support to programmes and activities of developing countries for human resources development and capacity-building, in particular those geared towards harnessing information and communication technologies;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session an assessment of the effectiveness of the contribution made by the United Nations system to advance human resources development in developing countries through its operational activities, and to make proposals to further enhance its impact;

"12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development and international economic cooperation', the sub-item entitled 'Human resources development'."

3. At the 44th meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Alexandru Niculescu (Romania), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Developing human resources for development" (A/C.2/54/L.57), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.10.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.57 (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.57, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.10 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Developing human resources for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 45/191 of 21 December 1990, 46/163 of 17 December 1991, 48/205 of 21 December 1993, 50/105 of 20 December 1995 and 52/196 of 18 December 1997, as well as the relevant sections of the Agenda for Development,[1]

Recognizing that the well-being of people is the overall goal of sustainable development,

Stressing that Governments have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development, and that there is a need for continued support from the international community to complement the efforts of developing countries,

Stressing also that there is a need for a supportive and favourable national and international economic environment that will enhance human resources development in developing countries and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences,

Recognizing that there is a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies that mainstream a gender perspective, taking into account the needs of all people, in particular the needs of women and the girl child,

Recognizing also the vital role of South-South cooperation in supporting national efforts at human resources development,

Expressing concern at the increasing development gap between developed and developing countries, including the gap in knowledge, information and communication technologies, and at the increasing disparity of income in and among nations and its adverse impact on the development of human resources, in particular in the developing countries,

Stressing that the developing countries should be assisted so that they can be well equipped with the knowledge of information technology that would enable them to benefit from the opportunities offered by globalization and avoid the risk of marginalization in the process of globalization,

Emphasizing the continued need for coordination and integration among the organs and organizations of the United Nations system in assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, to foster the development of their human resources, especially that of the most vulnerable groups, and for the United Nations to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Recognizes* the importance of developing human resources as a means, *inter alia*, of participating more effectively in the world economic system and of benefiting from globalization;

3. *Urges* increased investments in all aspects of human development, such as education and training, health and nutrition, to achieve universal coverage and the well-being of all;

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[1] Resolution 51/240, annex.

[2] A/54/408.

4. *Urges also* the adoption of comprehensive approaches to human resources development which combine, among other factors, economic growth, provision of basic social services, poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods, empowerment of women, involvement of youth, the needs of vulnerable groups of society, political freedom, popular participation, respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacity to meet the challenge of development;

5. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure the full participation of women in the formulation and implementation of national policies to promote human resources development;

6. *Encourages* all countries to accord priority, in particular in national budgets, to human resources development in the context of the adoption of economic and social policies;

7. *Invites* international organizations, including international financial institutions, to continue to give priority to supporting the objectives of human resources development and to integrating them into their policies, programmes and operations;

8. *Recognizes* the need to direct concerted efforts at enhancing the technical skills and know-how of people living in rural and agricultural areas with a view to improving their means of livelihood and material well-being and, in this regard, encourages the allocation of more resources for this purpose so as to facilitate access to appropriate technology and know-how from within and from other countries, in particular the developed countries, as well as through South-South cooperation;

9. *Encourages* the adoption of policies, approaches and measures that serve to narrow the increasing gap between developed and developing countries in information and communication technologies in particular and in technology in general, including by:

(a) Encouraging the private sector, in collaboration with the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, to donate voluntarily to designated centres in developing countries literary materials, information and communication technology equipment and training in order to facilitate improved access, as well as to make funds available for these purposes;

(b) Taking advantage of the rapid turnaround in both the educational institutions and corporations in developed countries of literary material and information and communication technology equipment, through coordinated efforts involving the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and recipients or interested developing countries;

(c) Promoting transparent, efficient regulatory regimes and other policies that encourage investment;

(d) Supporting targeted investments in infrastructure that would establish the physical foundation for the operation of Internet services and pave the way for commercial and development applications;

(e) Developing training in information technologies for users such as non-governmental organizations, universities and business service organizations, as well as key governmental agencies;

10. *Calls upon* developing countries, with the support of the international community, to establish information, communication and electronic community centres, where appropriate and in cooperation with the private sector, in order to provide connectivity and access to information and knowledge;

11. *Calls upon* the developed countries and the United Nations system to increase support to programmes and activities of developing countries for human resources development and capacity-building, in particular those geared towards harnessing information and communication technologies;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session an assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of the contribution made by the United Nations system to advancing human resources development in developing countries through its operational activities, and to make recommendations to enhance further its impact;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation", the sub-item entitled "Human resources development".